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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01915 111154Z

44
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 101899
R 111055Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1419

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1915

EXDIS

S/S-O DISTRIBUTE TO NEA AND NEA/ARN ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, SY
SUBJ: EXIMBANK CLAIM

1. DURING SEPT 10 COURTESY CALL BY ECONOFF ON SYRIAN CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR NASSOUH DAKKAK (SEPTEL), DAKKAK INTRODUCED QUESTION OF EXIMBANK GUARANTEE OF COMMERICAL BANK LOAN (BOUSTANI CLAIM). DAKKAK SAID MATTER WAS FOR COURTS TO DECIDE AS CLAIM AGAINST BANKRUPTED BOUSTANI ESTATE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT IMPLICATION OF 1965 NATIONALIZATION OF BOUSTANI TEXTILE FIRM, DAK-KAK CLAIMED SARG NATIONALIZED ASSETS OF FIRM AND NOT ITS LIABILITIES.

2. DAKKAK SAID EMBASSY'S INTEREST IN THE MATTER SHOULD BE PURSUED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH FOREIGN AND FINANCE MINISTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, DAKKAK SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE DEP. FINANCE MIN DR. ABDULHADI NAHLAWI WOULD HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH EXIMBANK DURING HIS PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON FOR SEPT 30 TO OCT 4 IBRD/IMF ANNUAL MEETINGS.

3. COMMENT: ECONOFF FOUND DAKKAK'S COMMENTS AND ATTITUDE ON DOUR END OF SPECTRUM AND WE HOPE TO SEE DEP FINMIN NAHLAWI SOON TO GAIN HIS GENERAL VIEWS
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WITHOUT OUR SPECIFICALLY RAISING ISSUE AT THIS TIME

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PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL CALLS ON NEW FINANCE
MINISTER MOHAMAD AL-SHARIF (PARA 2E, DAMASCUS 1939)
AND OTHER KEY MINISTERS INVOLVED IN SYRIAN ECONOMY.

4. DAKKAK'S VIEWS FOR YOUR INFO ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS
VISIT TO WASHINGTON. GIVEN FONMIN KHADDAM'S SEPT 10
COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR (SEPTEL), WE DO NOT BELIEVE
DAKKAK'S COMMENTS ON CLAIMS ISSUE WILL CARRY MUCH WEIGHT
IN EVENTUAL SARG DECISION ON THIS MATTER.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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